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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK 10 1943

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Home food preservation, including the training of leaders in this vital home front job, holds the number one spot in this week's summary.

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ALABAMA

May 19, 1943

Farm labor.- Alabama has distinction of being first Southern State to organize Voluntary Land Corps this year to help harvest crops. On May 1, 481 nonfarm high school boys of 29 towns started work helping process Baldwin County's 5,000-car Irish potato crop. They work in packing sheds, live in modern camps, and receive prevailing wages. They will work for 6 or 7 weeks. They were recruited by school officials in cooperation with Extension Service.

Nine employees of Alabama Extension Service assist the boys and supervise their work. Boys reported to be doing excellent job in helping harvest much-needed Irish potato crop. Employers reported well pleased with their work.

Clothing.- Four training schools in renovation of clothing will be held for agents and assistants during June.

Food Preservation.- Eighteen additional assistant home demonstration agents will be employed for months of June and July to assist with food preservation programs in towns and cities. Training schools for these temporary workers will be held from June 1 to 3.

KENTUCKY

May 15, 1943

Farm labor.- Six district conferences were held to acquaint county extension agents with plans and ^{methods of} procedure in mobilization, training, and placement of farm labor. Offices of agents will be used as clearing houses in each county. In addition, many community centers will be established to further exchange of labor, to promote activities of custom operators, and to provide for full utilization of power machinery.

Cooperating agencies were represented at conferences. Women's Land Army, utilization of machinery repair centers, and shifting of labor between counties were among topics discussed. County labor committees have been selected in all counties.

Summary No. 53

May 29, 1943

Training combine operators.- Series of 15 short courses in different parts of State were held to train men to run combine harvesters. Local implement dealers and representatives of manufacturers cooperated. About 2,500 combines in State are to be used to harvest small grain, clover and other legume seed, grass seed, soybeans, and to clean hemp seed. Many will be used over whole neighborhoods. Care of machinery was emphasized. One mowing machine was found that was purchased in 1896. Careful lubrication kept gears in good repair and machine is still doing good service. This machine served as excellent piece of illustrative material.

Fruit and vegetable dehydration.- To help families who have electricity to dry products from garden and orchard, a home-made vegetable and fruit dehydrator has been designed by the college. Boxlike, it is easy to make. It uses light bulbs for heat, and small fan circulates hot air through fruit or vegetables placed on shelves. Dehydrator is not intended to take place of canning, but may be used to dry nonacid vegetables, also such fruits as apples and peaches.

4-H Clubs.- Enrollment in food-production campaign making good progress; many counties exceeding quotas. In Owen County, 100 percent of all boys and girls of club age attending school have enlisted for food production. Summer activities of club members in neighborhoods to be supervised by an adult, an F.F.A. member, or experienced club member.

Victory Gardens.- County agents report more and larger gardens on farms and in towns. Tomatoes and edible soybeans especially popular. Typical of cooperation is mountainous Knox County, formerly deficient in home-produced foods. This county has purchased 9 carloads of certified potatoes for seed, and 1 carload of select potato seed.

Home canning.- Women losing no time in conserving food. Reports of meat, chicken, hominy, and greens canned surpass any other year's records.

Strawberries graded.- Inspection and grading service will be used for fresh strawberries, and for berries to be processed and shipped abroad under lend-lease. Inspectors stationed at 14 points in Kentucky. Last year, 95 percent of all strawberries were graded, although service was voluntary.

Poultry production.- Production of poultry reaching all-time high. Many hatcheries unable to fill unprecedented orders.

Information.- Great demand for the small, concise folders that Extension Service is using to replace, to a large extent, more detailed circulars formerly used. Demand especially heavy for following: Doing Farm Work in Wartime, One-Third More Pork with the Same Feed and Labor, Plant Hybrid Corn This Year, Chickens and Eggs for Home Use, Your Vegetable Garden in 1943. For use in 4-H Club work new series of folders contains among others: Labor Service Project, Hemp Seed Project, Victory Gardens, Poultry Brooding, and Producing More Beef.

MISSOURI
May 1, 1943

Strawberry pickers.- Survey of strawberry area in southwest Missouri in April revealed 2,900 acres of strawberries in 5 counties. Survey showed that total of 14,500 pickers will be needed to harvest crop, and that 6,500 of these must come from outside strawberry area. Plans were started at once to recruit needed pickers from schools, Boy Scout troops, and other organized youth groups, as well as from adult population of adjacent counties. Arrangements made for directional center to be set up at Monett and for each county extension office to serve as recruitment and placement office for strawberry pickers.

Machinery repair.- Missouri Farm Equipment Association, meeting at St. Louis in April, credited Missouri Agricultural Extension Service with having succeeded in getting farmers of State to order machinery repairs earlier and with greater thoroughness this spring than ever before. In working toward these results Extension Service prepared and circulated 210,000 farm machinery repair check sheets. Specialists, agents, and local leaders joined in getting farmers to use these aids in ordering repairs, believing that critical shortages of both labor and machinery made repair campaign essential for wartime production.

Feed conservation.- Entire State covered in series of district conferences of county agents and feed dealers to start campaign for supplementing and conserving feed supplies. Feed Industry Council and Extension Service have co-operation of college, State Department of Agriculture, and farm leaders in every county. Action was obtained immediately on seeding legumes in small grains, special seedings of oats and rape, and plans for insuring adequate supplies of these seeds, Sudan grass, and others in hands of local dealers. Emphasis placed also on more efficient use of feed and on better methods of cutting and curing hay.

Poultry.- Great increase in poultry numbers due to satisfactory prices and unprecedented demand for poultry meat. Egg production fully 15 percent ahead of 1942 record output. Farmers planning to raise enough chicks to increase laying flocks by 7,000,000 hens and pullets. Hatcheries completely sold out until end of June. Raising of poultry by townspeople has reached such proportions that it is impossible to estimate prospective increase in meat supply, since most of this poultry does not reach normal market channels.

In every county lumbermen were supplied with plans for poultry equipment, including laying mash feeders, range feeders, chick feeders, brooder houses, and range shelters. Preliminary reports indicate 8,450 new brooder houses built to accommodate 2,500,000 additional chicks. Demand for family-sized brooding unit introduced last year far exceeds available supply of materials. At least 5,000 of these units have been built in State this spring.

Radio short course in poultry raising was given each Saturday for 11 weeks through Station KMBC. Agents in 38 counties assisted in preliminary publicity and obtained written enrollment of more than 3,600 families. Each enrollee was supplied with mimeographed copies of broadcasts and encouraged to send in questions for informal discussion during weekly lessons. After each broadcast 90 to 125 letters were received from listeners.

Nutrition and canning.- State-wide series of 2-day training meetings for county leaders in nutrition and canning completed. Series of steam canning demonstrations to be conducted at canning centers throughout State. County extension agents and other trained county leaders now working with school and community groups to keep all canning centers and school lunch programs in operation under local sponsorship. Individual homemakers owning pressure cookers are volunteering to lend their equipment to neighbors. Older 4-H Club girls with successful canning experience are helping in demonstrations.

Neighborhood leaders.- Outstanding successes of neighborhood leader system reported from Polk County. Latest achievement was completion of Red Cross fund campaign, which raised \$9,725, or 61 percent more than quota for this strictly rural county. Other recent successes included county health campaign in which 4,727 persons, or 28 percent of county's entire population, were immunized within 3-week period, and organization of 28 community 4-H Clubs with 425 members carrying more than 500 war projects.

Soil fertility.- Audrain County farmers using lime and sweetclover to get greater wartime production while keeping soil fertility at high level. This spring 18,560 acres of limed land in county is in sweetclover, mostly seeded with oats. All will be used as pasture or green manure. Great interest was aroused by results last year on 10,000 acres of limed sweetclover plowed under and planted to corn. Yields averaged 40 bushels an acre, compared to 25 on similar land without lime and sweetclover.

Black walnut trees.- Completed State-wide survey of available black walnut trees with help of 752 neighborhood leaders in 97 counties. The trees were found on 13,743 farms. Follow-up cards now being mailed to owners to determine number and size of trees that may be available.

4-H Clubs.- In southwest Missouri 19 counties report combined increase of 2,000 in 4-H Club membership over last year. Of total members more than 75 percent are enrolled in food production projects--dairy, poultry, sheep, pig, garden, and food preservation. 4-H Club girls in several counties are assisting home demonstration agents in canning demonstrations.

Thirteen scholarships at University of Missouri, each worth \$100 and donated by public-spirited individuals or organizations, are offered this year to Missouri farm boys and girls through 4-H Club work. These will be awarded to members making outstanding records in dairy production, conservation of natural resources, and fire prevention. At Missouri College of Agriculture this year, 43 percent of all students enrolled have been former members of 4-H clubs.

Dairy products.- Fifty Missouri cheese factories have joined with Extension Service in setting up State-wide program for further improvement in milk, cream, and cheese. Not content with putting Missouri in third place among cheese-producing states, milk producers and cheese manufacturers are determined to increase to maximum the proportion of their output that grades high enough to be accepted for armed forces.

Radio.- April saw completion of several wartime radio short courses, including 11 weekly broadcasts on poultry problems, 11 on dairying, 6 on soil improvement and management, 10 on gardening, 5 on fruit growing, 5 on nutrition, and 4 on forestry.

NEW YORK
May 1, 1943

Emergency Food Commission.- State Emergency Food Commission of 11 members set up by Governor to aid in achievement of production goals. General functions are (1) to help farmers attain maximum production, partly through overcoming such shortages as those of labor and machinery; (2) to assure continued shipment into State of necessary feed and other supplies; (3) to guide adaptation of public to necessary changes in diet. One of first jobs is to try to obtain enough wheat and corn from Midwest to supply feeds needed for herds and flocks of State.

Food preservation.- Tremendous interest in food preservation shown in State. Foods and nutrition extension staff devoting practically full time to it. Food preservation school planned to train county leaders in demonstration techniques as well as subject matter. In counties, home demonstration agents, 4-H Club homemaking agents, teachers and other home economists are holding training schools for local leaders. Some schools are 2- to 3-day institutes covering canning, salting, drying, and storage. Those completing are certified as food preservation teachers. In some counties, series of training schools are given a week or more apart, with excellent attendance.

Neighborhood groups being formed to share pressure cookers and other canning equipment. Community canning centers being set up; 50 such centers reported from one county.

Demand for bulletins on canning, storing, freezing, and drying is greater than college can meet. New bulletin, Canning at Home, has run through 50,000 copies; 100,000 more copies requested.

Motion picture in color on home canning being made. Will show canning of fruit with boiling-water method and canning of nonacid vegetables in pressure cooker. Enough copies will be made to permit showing throughout State.

Sprouted soybeans.- Experiments under way on methods of sprouting soybeans commercially and at home. Sprouting creates vitamin C. The sprouted beans need to be cooked only 10 to 12 minutes and compare well with meat in food value. Mimeographed recipes using soy products will soon be available.

Vegetable production outlook.- Farm-to-farm canvass shows expected increases of 15 percent in potatoes, 100 percent in snap beans, 100 percent in green vegetables, but decrease of 15 percent in dry beans. Very large increase of home gardens indicated, mostly in urban areas.

Milking-machine management program.- In 30 dairy counties 15,000 are now enrolled in milking-machine management program based on experimental evidence from Geneva experiment station. Program is saving hours at choretime, night and morning, on thousands of New York dairy farms. Faster milking also found to reduce occurrence of mastitis. Included in program are simple practices that guarantee clean milkers and less "reject" milk, and rules for keeping motor pulsators and pumps in good working order.

Fire prevention.- Farm fire hazards now greater than year ago because buildings are harder to replace and local fire companies are handicapped by shortage of men and difficulties in getting to farms. 4-H Clubs doing good work in locating fire hazards; backed by fire-insurance companies which offer war bonds as prizes. Granges holding farm fire-prevention meetings. Before fall, program will be started to encourage use of temperature testers in haymows for prevention of spontaneous combustion in barns.

Cheese production.- Last year, loss of skilled labor, truck transportation tie-ups, and manufacturing problems caused losses through failure to meet specifications for lend-lease purchases. Program was launched this spring to help cheese makers to locate and correct troubles. Expert technicians from experiment station staff will assist.

Clothing conservation.- Many 4-H Club girls using patches in gay colors and designs to make sweaters and other garments last longer, particularly ready-made garments that do not provide yarn or material for mending. The patched garments are attractive and girls enjoy wearing them.